



Volume I, Issue 1

Indian Health Service

Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs News and

Vision



Offering

*A Reflection By The Director
Division of Health Professions Support*

THE PURPOSE, MISSION AND FUNDING HISTORY OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS

Congress declared in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), Public Law (P.L.) 94-437, as amended, Declaration of Health Objectives (Section 3):

[T]hat it is the policy of this nation, in fulfillment of its special responsibilities and legal obligations to the American Indian and Alaskan Native people, to assure the highest possible health status for Indians and urban Indians and to provide all resources necessary to affect that policy.

In Title I (Indian Health Professions) of the IHCIA, Section 101 (Purpose), the Congress declared:

[T]he purpose of this title is to increase the number of Indians entering the health professions and to assure an adequate supply of health professionals to the Service, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations involved in the provision of health care to Indian people.

Therefore, the Mission of the Indian Health Service (IHS) Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs is **to increase the number of Indian and other health professionals for Indian health programs, including IHS programs; tribal programs (contract or compact) conducted under an Indian Self Determination Act (ISDA), P.L. 93-638, as amended; urban Indian programs assisted under Title V of the IHCIA; and Buy Indian Contract Programs (25 U.S.C. 47).** The IHS Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs are thereby maximizing the participation of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in Indian health programs by training AI/AN health professionals. By maximizing AI/AN participation in Indian health programs, the Congressional policies of Indian Self Determination and raising the health status of AI/AN are effectuated.

In 1976, Congress initially authorized six sections under the then Title I (Indian Health Manpower) of the IHCIA. Since 1976, Congress has authorized over twenty sections of Title I by amending the IHCIA.



**Linus Everling, J.D., M.P.H., Director,
Division of Health Professions Support**

Of the twenty, ten sections are funded under the Indian Health Professions appropriation line item. Fiscal Year (FY) 1997 Indian Health Professions Appropriations are \$28,270,000. More than 80 percent of the Indian Health Professions appropriations (\$28,270,000) go to the Section 103 and Section 104 Scholarships (\$11,939,000) and Section 108 Loan Repayment Program (\$11,815,100). The remaining appropriations are dispersed among the seven other authorizations funded under the Indian Health Professions.

Overall funding for Indian Health Professions has grown from the approximately \$3 million in FY 1978 to the current level of \$28,270,000. Any increases in the Indian Health Professions, as well as the overall IHS budget, are projected to be modest in future fiscal years. There is very good news in FY 1997 as there will be a new awards cycle for the Section 103 and Section 104 Scholarships. There were no new Section 103 and Section 104 Scholarships in FY 1996, because Congress reduced the Indian Health Professions by \$2 million. That \$2 million reduction was restored in FY 1997. □

Program Updates

Scholarships Section:

Current Year:

This year the Indian Health Service (IHS) Scholarship Program (IHSSP) resumes it's new award cycle. Approximately 138 new awards and 100 continuation awards will be made under the authority of Section 103. Approximately 214 new awards and 179 continuation awards will be made under the authority of Section 104. □

Indian Health Professions Appropriations

Sections	Program	Awards
102	Recruitment Program	3
105	Extern Program	75
110	Tribal Recruitment & Retention Prgm	7
112	Nursing Program	7
114	INMED Program	2
120	Matching Grants to Tribes for Scholarship Programs	6
217	American Indians Into Psych Prgm	1

Note: Section 112 is administered by the Chief of Nursing, IHS, and Section 217 is authorized in title II (Health Services) of the IHCIA.

Section	Programs Awarded
102	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe . Eastern Band of Cherokee Tribe . South Central Foundation of Alaska
110	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe . Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board . Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe . Southeast Alaska Regional Health Center . Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, Inc.. . Consolidated Tribal Health at Ukiah, California . Fort Mohave Tribe
112	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . State University of New York (SUNY), Buffalo . Arizona State University . Salish Kootenai College . University of North Dakota (UND) . University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire . Oglala Lakota College . Research Foundation of SUNY
114	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . UND at Grand Forks . UND at Duluth
120	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Eastern Band of Cherokee Tribe . Seminole Tribe of Florida . Norton Sound of Alaska . Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe . Colville Confederated Tribes . Tohono O'Odham Nation
217	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Quentin N. Burdick American Indians Into Psychology Program at UND at Grand Forks

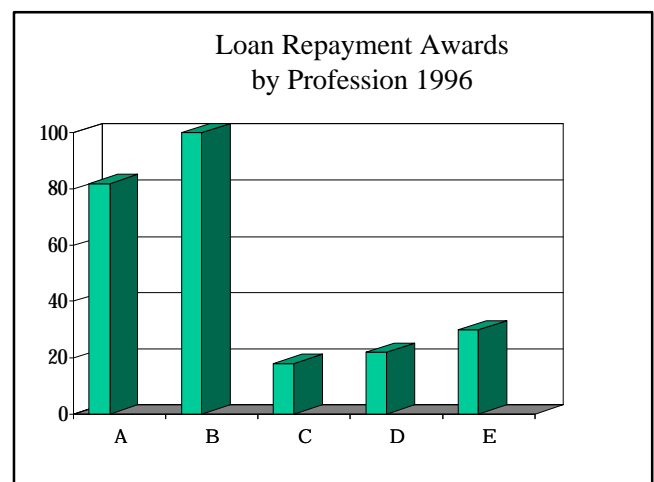
Loan Repayment Section:

Current Year:

Fiscal Year (FY) 1997 has begun for the Loan Repayment Program (LRP). The LRP award cycle(s) began in January and will continue monthly until all the funds are exhausted. There have also been legislative initiatives which were passed by the 104th Congress and have changed the LRP. On October 19, 1996, Public Law (P.L.) 104-413, the Indian Health Care Improvement Technical Amendments Act, was enacted and amended Section 4(n) ("Health Professions") and Section 104 (Indian Health Professions Scholarship) of the P.L. 94-437. (See page 3 for further details). □

1996 Retrospect:

A total of 252 awards were made in FY 1996. Provided is a chart that reflects the number of awards in their respective disciplines.



LEGEND FOR LRP 1996

A = Physicians	82
B = Nurses	100
C = Dentists	18
D = Mental Health	22
E = Other Allied Professions	30
TOTAL AWARDS	252



Program Updates

94-437 Technical Amendments

The amendment to Section 4(n) of P.L. 94-437 made all allopathic specialties eligible to participate in the IHS Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs, as follows:

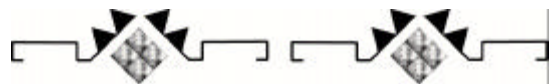
- 1) by inserting 'allopathic medicine,' before 'family medicine,' and
 (2) by striking 'and allied health professions' and inserting 'an allied health profession, or any other health profession.'

This resulted in a new definition, as follows:

allopathic medicine means, family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatric medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, podiatric medicine, nursing, public health nursing, dentistry, psychiatry, osteopathy, optometry, pharmacy, psychology, public health, social work, marriage and family therapy, chiropractic medicine, environmental health and engineering, **and allied**

health profession, or any other health profession (emphasis added). See P.L. 104-313.

Other than making all allopathic and osteopathic physician specialties eligible to participate in the LRP, the amendment to Section 4 (n) gives the LRP maximum policy flexibility regarding the eligibility of other health and allied health professions. □



Contact Information

Scholarships Staff

Mrs. Pat Lee-McCoy is the IHS Scholarship Branch Chief. Ms. Robin Bristow is the IHS Scholarship Branch Coordinator. The following discipline assignments were made for FY 1997:

John Coleman: Dental, Dietetics/Nutrition, Medical Technology, Physicians, Podiatry, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistants, Respiratory Therapist and Public Health.

Paul Lofgren: Accounting, Chemical Dependency, Clinical Psychologist (Ph.D.), Computer Science, Dental Hygienist, Health Administration, Health Education, Masters of Public Health, Masters of Social Work and Health Records.

Juana Hernandez: Engineering, Optometry, Paraoptometry, Sanitation, Ultrasonographer, and X-Ray Technology.

Georgianna Old Elk: Audiology, Community Health Medicine, Nursing (A.D.N., F.N.P., B.S.N., M.S.N., Nurse Midwife, and Public Health Nurse). □

FY 1997 IHSSP Application Booklets

Application booklets are available through the Area Scholarship Coordinators. As in the past, application packets were mailed to each of the 11 Area Scholarship Coordinators. □

Loan Repayment Staff

Some transitional changes have taken place while Charles Yepa, Chief, Loan Repayment Program is assigned to the Agency's Business Integration Team (BIT) for an undetermined length of time. The BIT will be developing the reports required by the Government Performance (GPRA) and Results Act and other reports required by the National Performance Review (NPR).

Ms. Sylvia Maheux has been designated as Acting Chief of the LRP. The discipline assignments for the FY 1997 award year are as follows:

Colin Bearstail	Physicians
Jacqueline Santiago	Nurses
Donald Neconie, Jr.	Mental Health
Correy Ahhaitty	Dentists
Sylvia Maheux	Other Professions
Carla Mendoza	Applications □

FY 1997 Loan Repayment Application Booklets

The IHS Loan Repayment booklet is currently available by contacting the LRP. As in the past, application booklets have also been mailed to all IHS recruiters. □

Deadline Dates

Scholarships:

Application deadline is April 1, 1997. Continuations are awarded first, new awards are made until funds are exhausted.

Loan Repayment:

Application deadline dates are scheduled for April 18, May 16, June 13, July 18, August 15 and September 12. All deadline dates are based on funds available. □

The Quarterly Staff

The *Quarterly* is a publication issued through the Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program. The *Quarterly* and further information regarding each Program can be found on the IHS Home Page (<http://www.tucson.ihs.gov>).

Linus Everling, J.D., M.P.H.Editor-In-Chief
Jacqueline SantiagoContributing Editor
Correy Ahhaitty and
Donald NeconieLayout Editors



Perspectives

Each month the Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program will feature a student/applicant/recruiter/coordinator, etc., from its respective program. This section is meant to inform other applicants, recipients, outside agencies and Universities the benefits of the IHS Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs.

Name:

Kelly L. Neconie

Degree Conferred:

Masters in Public Health



Mrs. Neconie graduated with a Masters in Public Health from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Currently she is the **Director of Family and Community Health Services (FCHS)**, with the **California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB)**.

"Were it not for obtaining my MPH, I would not be at my current position as Director of FCHS at CRIHB. The IHS Scholarship Program enabled me to partake in Graduate School and concentrate on studies, without having the stress of worrying about finances. I enjoy serving the needs of Indian people while completing my obligation for the IHS." □

Contact Information:

Indian Health Service
Loan Repayment Program
ATTN: **Newsletter Staff**
12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20852
(301) 443-3396